Standby Lighting system at Airport

*133. SHRI. SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether standby arrangements for runway lights exist tt all the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for blackout in Bangalore Airport on the 9th May, 2000; and

(c) the action proposed to provide the infrastructure for round the clock lighting system at the Airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Standby diesel generator sets have been provided at all the airports in the country. These generators are provided not only for main and standby runway lights but also for all other essential facilities and equipments functioning at the airport. Standby runway lightings also have been provided at 27 airports including Bangalore in the country.

(b) and (c) At Bangalore Airport, main as well as standby runway lights have been provided. The main circuit was provided in 1987 and the standby circuit was installed in 199S. Modifications of the main circuit was being undertaken when some cables got damaged which resulted in failure in both the main and standby circuits on 9th May, 2000. The same was repaired and made operational immediately.

Creation of Appellate Authority for Airports

*134. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the need to have an appellate authority for airports with representations from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airlines and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been felt in the past;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is examining a proposal to set the process of forming a regulatory mechanism for airports in the country in motion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Creation of a autonomous Statutory Economic Reglatory Authority (CAERA) to oversee the financial practices of the airport, air navigation services providers and air transport operators, within the overall framework of the draft Civil Aviation Policy is under consideration.

Cheating through fake Demand Drafts

*135 SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-State gang of cheats has cheated banks, car dealers, jewellery shops in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Andhra Pradesh with the help of fake Demand Draft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to make Demand Drafts more foolproof beyond copying?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a few cases of fake demand drafts in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Andhra Pradesh have come to its notice. However, none of the public sector banks has reported any loss on account of such fake demand drafts. As* regards cheating of car dealers of jewellery shops through use of fake demand drafts, RBI's data reporting system does not generate such information.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed instructions to banks advising safeguards against perpetration of frauds through fake/forged demand drafts. The safeguards *inter alia* include treating bank drafts as security items to be held in joint custody and balanced daily and verified periodically, printing drafts on sensitive paper, use of protcctograph machines, pinpoint typewriters or protective cheque writers while issuing demand drafts, scrutinising carefully the signatures of drawing officials and in case of doubt contacting the issuing branch by fax4clcx4clegram and ensuring extra caution by